

A Closer Look

By Ernest Kreiling

HOLLYWOOD—We are on the threshold of the most sweeping revolution in the history of entertainment since the development of television.

For years electronics firms have been trying to perfect a low-cost home TV tape recorder similar to the now popular audio tape recorders.

Insiders' Newsletter recently reported that a British firm has now developed such a device, called Telcan, which might be on the market in

1964. The home video recorder weighs but 15 pounds and will probably retail for about \$185.

The ramifications of such a low cost recorder are infinite and exciting. For example, we may seldom have occasion to go into a theater again. Instead we might be able to purchase or rent tapes of plays and movies for our own private viewing at home. We'll perhaps have only to go to the market or library to pick the entertainment we most want.

take it home and view it at our own leisure, just as we read books and magazines.

OF EQUAL importance is Telcan's simple everyday use in recording television programs directly off our living room TV set for watching a second time at our convenience or to save for a member of the family who couldn't see it the first time.

Conceivably we might build our own private tape library of drama, music, and comedy to be watched whenever we were so inclined or disenchanted with what was then on the air.

Some people foresee the addition of an inexpensive electronic TV camera to our list of household appliances, a device to convert our homes into do-

it-yourself TV studios. Who knows but what TV might replace home movies.

THE ESSENCE of the potential revolution in entertainment with a popularly priced video tape recorder lies in the possibility that perhaps plays, concerts, and movies may be merchandisable on a mass scale directly to the consumer without having to go through the traditional middleman such as network executives or theater owners. Perhaps, finally, judgements in taste and decisions in entertainment may be left to the consumer alone and not have to be filtered through a small group of people who must make decisions at least partially on the basis of

their personal likes and dislikes.

Although at the moment the British instrument seems the closest to perfection, a competitive market is almost assured because engineers in Germany, Japan, and the United States are also working feverishly on the same device.

HOW SOON might such a home recorder become a commonplace thing? Perhaps just one or two years, according to one source.

The Telcan uses 1/4-in tape and the cost of a half hour spool, which has to be turned at 15 minutes will be about \$25.

The importance of the British announcement is that until now the lowest cost of a ma-



Hollywood Reporter

By Mike Connolly

Mike's Thursday Mailbag
Dear Mike: What's happened to Mike Wilding, after that hubbaloob about him in a book about Hollywood? — Wally Mitchell, Winston-Salem, N. C.

Dear Wally: He quit acting and is now the agent for Richard Burton, the best friend of his ex-wife, Liz Taylor. He's with the Hugh French Agency of Hollywood and London.

(English Women's Army) we had a girl who called herself Gaill Brook. We had lots of fun in camp listening to her tales of Hollywood about her father, Clive Brook, her uncle, Charles Boyer, and others. I've long since moved to the U.S.A. and haven't heard a thing about her. Do you know anything of this girl? — Brenda Arthur, Levittown, N.J.

Dear Mike: Anyone who would watch a movie biography ("PT 109") of President Kennedy, for which he contributed \$1,000 to make, is sure to be watching propaganda—a scheme for votes. The President should use better taste by being modest about his activities.—Jane Packford, Three Rivers, Calif.

Dear Jane: The brass out at Warner Brothers says there's no truth to your statement that the President contributed a dime to the production costs. They made the movie because they wanted to make it, and JFK's only contribution was okaying the casting of Cliff Robertson as himself.

Dear Sir: Why in the name of all that's Gaelic would they give the part of an Irish girl in "The Unsinkable Molly Brown" to Debbie Reynolds. She doesn't have even a trace of the Ould Sod about her.—Mary Lawlor, Lexington, Mass.

Dear Mary: They gave it to her because hers was the best screen test for the part. She had plenty of stiff competition but she won it, put-on brogue and all!

Dear Mr. Connolly: What part did Jean Seberg take in "Bonjour Tristesse" and what publication carries the best descriptions concerning subject, quality of acting, and general interest of current and upcoming motion pictures.—Frederick C. Cross, Walnut Creek, Calif.

Dear Brenda: My records show that the children of Millie and Clive Brook are Lyndon (actor) and Faith (actress)—and no more. Why don't you write to Clive himself, at Sheperton Studios, London?

Dear Mike: I would like to become a writer. So far, I have written four Biblical stories. I know they are very good—if only I knew the right person who could help me! Could you tell me where I could reach Cecil B. DeMille, Hall Wallis and John Ford? I am a small town girl and wish to remain so but I also want to be a writer, more than anything else in the world. Please help me. — Yolanda Holden, Hampton Beach, N.H.

Dear Yolanda: DeMille died in 1959 but you may write to Wallis at Paramount Studios, 5451 Marathon, Hollywood — and to Ford at Batjac Productions, 1022 Palm Drive, Hollywood. Better still, why not try to crack through via TV? They are producing a new series called "Great Adventures From the Bible," with Hugh O'Brian in the pilot film, at MGM-TV Studios, Culver City, Calif. Send any scripts to the Story Editor of the series at the same address.

Open House Marks Latest Bank Branch

The official business opening of Security First National Bank's new International Airport branch on Friday will be highlighted by a day-long open house celebration, Manager Roy C. Palmer announced.

The branch, Security's 293rd in Southern California, is located at 6171 W. Century Blvd., on the northeast corner of Century and Vicksburg Avenue, one block east of Sepulveda Boulevard.

"It is with a great deal of pleasure that we extend a cordial invitation to all our neighbors and friends to visit with us, inspect our new facilities, and share with us the activities of this gala occasion," Palmer said.

"The International Airport branch represents one of the most unique and advanced banks in architectural design in the entire Southland area," he added.

Dear Liane: You're one in a million. See my answer to Mr. Cross.

Dear Mr. Connolly: During army training with the A.T.S.

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